(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) International price of crude oil started declining from August, 2008. The details of total import of crude oil into the country since then upto December 2008, both in quantity and value terms, are as under:-

Month	Quantity (TMT)	Value in (US$ Million)
August, 2008	10877	9410
September, 2008	10264	7192
October, 2008	11365	5998
November, 2008	9877	3520
December, 2008	10465	3029

TMT - Thousand Metric Tonnes US$ - US dollars

(b) While the fall in international oil prices has provided some relief to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as their import costs have come down, the Companies have also suffered huge inventory losses, adversely affecting their refining margins and profitability. The adverse impact is reflected in three OMCs *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., having a combined loss of Rs. 11,094 crore during April-December, 2008.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. In September 2005, the Government has decided to set up a Strategic Crude Oil Reserve of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) capacity at 3 locations *viz.*, Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur, Udipi (2.5 MMT) through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), which is a 100% subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). Crude oil from the Strategic Reserves will be released by a Government-appointed High Power Committee, to deal with any short-term disruptions in crude oil supplies due to natural calamity or any unforeseen global event like war etc.

Development of adventure tourism in Himachal Pradesh

813. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased state:

(a) the financial assistance allocated to Himachal Pradesh during the year 2007-08, 2008-09 for procurement of skiing, watersports, mountaineering and trekking equipments to develop adventure tourism in the State;

(b) the amount out of allocation has been spent to achieve the goal;

(c) whether it is a fact that fund released to develop adventure tourism in the State have been diverted to other activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and Promotion of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/ UT Administrations concerned. Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism including procurement of skiing/water sports/mountaineering/trekking equipments under the Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits Scheme of the Ministry, on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project in the year 2007-08 to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for Integrated Development of Eco-tourism Circuit for an amount of Rs.368.82 lakh out of which Rs. 10.50 lakh has been earmarked for procurement of trekking equipment.

Implementation of the project is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. However Ministry of Tourism monitors the progress of implementation from time to time.

Promotion of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

814. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the successful election in Jammu and Kashmir, Government has asked its tourism officers abroad to make a new bid to attract tourists to India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what has been the impact so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism promotes and publicises the tourist destinations through its Incredible India campaign in the print, online, electronic and outdoor media. The Indiatourism offices overseas also undertake promotional activities to attract tourists to India and to promote the varied tourist destinations of the country including Jammu & Kashmir. These activities *include* advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organising seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Details of foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings in the last three years is as follows:

	2006	2007	2008
Foreign Tourist Arrivals	4.45 million (+13.5%)	5.08 million (+14.3%)	5.37 million (+5.6%)
Foreign Exchange Earnings (in US$ million)	8634 (+19.2%)	10729 (+24.3%)	11747 (+9.5%)